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After Dr. GOULD'S death, CHANDLER became the editor of the *Astronomical Journal,* founded by GOULD in 1849, but suspended between 1861 and 1885. As associate editors, Professors ASPAH HALL and LEWIS BOSS were joined, in the early years. After 1908, Professor BOSS became principal editor, with CHANDLER and others as associates. But CHANDLER'S health had been severely broken, mainly by the excessive and unrestrained zeal with which he worked in his most active periods, and the last few years have been practically spent in retirement, with little hope of rehabilitation.

He was sixty-seven years old, having been born and educated in Boston. He was an actuary in insurance for many years, and held important posts of private and corporate trust. He received the Watson medal of our National Academy of Sciences and the gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society of England, as recognition of his notable contributions to astronomy.

JOHN ROBIE EASTMAN.

BY R. H. TUCKER.

Another one of the coterie of astronomers that gave substantial reputation to the Naval Observatory at Washington died in September last. Professor J. R. EASTMAN had been retired, at the naval age limit of sixty-two years, in 1898, tho his promotion to the rank of rear admiral came some eight years later.

He was born at Andover in 1836 and was graduated from Dartmouth in 1862, the college that later gave him the degrees of M. S. and Ph. D. He obtained a position as assistant astronomer at the Naval Observatory soon after his graduation, and three years later was promoted to the rank of professor of mathematics in the U. S. Navy.

The staff of the observatory in those years included among its distinguished names those of NEWCOMB, HALL, HOLDEN, HARKNESS, FRISBY, SKINNER and PAUL. Of these Dr. HOLDEN is now at West Point, Professors FRISBY and SKINNER are retired, and Professor PAUL is at Annapolis.

The work of Professor EASTMAN was mainly done with the meridian circle, at an epoch when the greater part of the resources of the principal observatories was devoted to observations of star positions and the resulting discussion of stellar motions. The great national observatories will still continue in this line, undoubtedly, along with the observations of Sun, Moon, and planets. Privately endowed observatories are taking up the astrophysical researches more and more, and photography is extending the measurement of star positions to those of the fainter classes.

The greater part of EASTMAN's work is contained in the Second Washington Catalog, published in 1898 (Appendix I, Wash. Obs. 1892). The observations were made with the old Pistor and Martins transit circle of 8½ inches aperture, and were reduced to the epoch 1875.0, the epoch of many other sets of observations of that period.

In 1878, nearly the entire staff of the Naval Observatory went to Colorado to observe the total eclipse of the Sun, and Professor EASTMAN was of the party. Among other astronomers of this country who probably had their only eclipse experience at that time were Boss and SAFFORD. Those were the days of visual observations only, and the collection of sketches of the corona, made often by hands unskilled in graphical work, shows a wide variety of impressions.

In 1882 our government fitted out eight parties for the observation of the transit of *Venus* in various parts of the world, and Professor EASTMAN was ordered with his party to Florida. A French expedition, chaperoned by Mr. PRESTON of the Coast Survey, also observed the transit in Florida.

Professor EASTMAN had been vice-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and president of the Washington Academy and of the Washington Philosophical Society. He was seventy-seven years of age at the time of his death.